

*Amended*

a plurality of data lines;

pixel areas defined by the scanning lines and the data lines;

a switching element provided in each pixel area; and

a pixel electrode provided in each pixel area;

wherein a pretilt angle due to the alignment film is 20° to 30°, and, if a thickness of the liquid crystal disposed between the first and second substrates is represented as d, and a space defined between the pixel electrodes is represented as L, a ratio d/L is at least 1.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 3 is cancelled and claims 1 is amended.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

#### **I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bos et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,141,074); Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bos in view of Hattori et al. (Pub. No. US 2002/0085154 A1); Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bos in view of Miyatake et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,092,664); and Claims 4, 5, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bos in view of Ichikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,339,459 B1). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action appreciates that Bos does not disclose the ratio d/L being at least 1, as recited in claim 1. The Office Action asserts that Hattori makes up for the deficiencies of Bos by disclosing this feature. However, Hattori does not qualify as a reference under any section of 35 U.S.C. § 102 because the December 6, 2001 filing date of Hattori is after both

filing dates of the two foreign application from which the present application claims priority. Specifically, the present application claims priority based on JP 2000-115207 (with a filing date of April 17, 2000) and JP 2001-064073 (with a filing date of March 7, 2001).

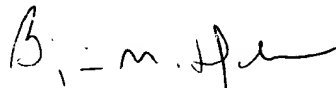
For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over the applied references. The dependent claims are likewise patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103 be withdrawn.

## II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A liquid crystal device, comprising:

first and second substrates, the first substrate having a surface proximate the second substrate, the second substrate being a surface proximate the first substrate;

an alignment film disposed at each of the surfaces of the first and second substrates;

liquid crystal disposed between the first and second substrates;

a plurality of scanning lines;

a plurality of data lines;

pixel areas defined by the scanning lines and the data lines;

a switching element provided in each pixel area; and

a pixel electrode provided in each pixel area;

wherein a pretilt angle due to the alignment film is 20° to 30°, and, if a thickness of the liquid crystal disposed between the first and second substrates is represented as d, and a space defined between the pixel electrodes is represented as L, a ratio d/L is at least 1.